

The Elba Clipper

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50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, July 3, 2003

1 Section, 12 Pages

Highway 84 project taking shape in Coffee County's Shiloh community

by Linda Hodge, Editor

A few years ago, local citizens wondered if U.S. Highway 84 would ever be four-laned through this area, and today, although most are still waiting, a few have become believers as of late.

Coffee County residents of the Shiloh community located between Elba and New Brockton can say without a doubt road work has begun in

that area with dirt being moved on a near daily basis.

This part of the road construction will include the section set for the relocation of Highway 84 around the Town of New Brockton, and since work began on the section, the project has shown great progress with some areas already taking shape for the new road.

The four-laning of Highway 84 has shown its most progress in neighboring Covington

County with several sections of the roadwork underway, and the project first reached Coffee County in August of 2002 when work began on a section of the road leading to Alabama Highway 141 in the Curtis Community of Coffee County.

As for the section of Highway 84 coming through the City of Elba, Department of Transportation officials said they are having a bit of trouble with certain pieces of property.

Back in August of last year, Ronnie Baldwin, an official with the Alabama Department of Transportation office in Troy, said the project was being hindered locally by a problem with several pieces of property purchased by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the flood buyout plan.

Several months later, state officials are still working with FEMA officials in trying to find a solution to this problem so the work can continue.

However, DOT officials insist the overall project is still in line with things moving along very well in most areas.

Upon completion of this project, motorists will be able to travel U.S. Hwy. 84 on a four-laned road across Alabama from Andalusia to the Georgia State line.



LOOKS LIKE A ROAD...The four-laning of U.S. Highway 84 has really taken shape lately in the Shiloh community between Elba and New Brockton with the area being cleaned and leveled for construction of the new road. Although one section of the road is being constructed alongside the current one, the new 84 will no longer travel through downtown New Brockton as the road is being relocated in this section.

Motorists urged to drive safely during Fourth of July holiday

Troopers anticipate heavy traffic on the state's roadways throughout the extended Fourth of July holiday weekend. All available state troopers will be on duty during the holiday travel period, and they will be watchful for speeders, drunken drivers and other traffic violators, according to Col. W.M. Coppage, Department of Public Safety director.

"Troopers will be working to ensure that roadway travel is safe and enjoyable for Alabamians and visitors to our state," Coppage said. "I encourage each motorist also to support roadway safety by driving with extreme caution and buckling up on every trip." He said a federal grant from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs would provide funding to enhance patrols.

During the holidays Alabama troopers will join law enforcement and traffic safety agencies throughout the state and nation in traffic safety campaigns designed to increase roadway safety through enforcement and safety education.

Troopers' increased emphasis on DUI enforcement during rou-

time patrols and checkpoints will help support the "You Drink and Drive. You Lose. Nation Crackdown," a traffic safety campaign that seeks to prevent drunken driving through high-visibility DUI enforcement and public education regarding the dangers of driving while impaired by alcohol and drugs.

Troopers will concentrate patrols on heavily traveled roadways, including interstates and popular beach and vacation routes. These roadways have been designated as C.A.R.E. highways in conjunction with Operation C.A.R.E., Combined Accident Reduction Effort, a joint endeavor by state police nationwide to promote traffic safety during holiday periods.

The Department of Public Safety estimates that 16 people will die in traffic crashes in Alabama during the 78-hour Independence Day period beginning at 6 p.m. Thursday, July 3, and ending at midnight Sunday, July 6. Last year there were seven fatalities during the 102-hour Fourth of July period. Five of the crash victims were not using safety belts. None of the traffic deaths was alcohol related.

Fireworks frequently lead to injuries

The Fourth of July can be a time of fun and celebration, but it can also be a time of serious injury or burns if fireworks are used improperly. To prevent unnecessary

injury the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Alabama Department of Public Health strongly recommend that you leave fireworks to the professionals.

"Detonating these devices is best left to the professionals, because even fireworks that seem innocent can cause serious injury," said Carol Mysinger, director of the Injury Prevention Division at the Alabama Department of Public Health. "For example, sparklers, that are

often used by young children, burn at temperatures of 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit."

According to CPSC, in 2002 an estimated 8,000 people were treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with fireworks, with half of those people being under the age of 15.

Over half of the injuries were burns and primarily involved the hands, eyes and head.

"We understand that people like to celebrate Independence Day with fireworks. However, improper use of fireworks or use of illegal fireworks can result in deaths, blindings, amputations and severe burns," said Melissa

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THIS OAK STUMP in the Elba levee, near the Pea River bridge, is an example of what will no longer be allowed to grow on the newly renovated Elba levee. The danger from such a large stump is the root system can weaken the integrity and holding ability of the levee. Water can begin seeping along an extended root and breach the levee. In the event the tree dies, the rotting root system will leave cavities that are readily susceptible to the pressure from any rising water pressing against the levee.

Bob Andrews approved as new principal for New Brockton Elementary

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Board of Education conducted a special meeting Thursday evening, June 26, and spent the majority of the meeting discussing a sewage system problem at Zion Chapel.

Upon the request of the board, Richard Keith, an engineer with Wiregrass Engineering of Ozark, was present for the meeting to discuss possible solutions for the ongoing sewage problem, and an hour and a half discussion left the group still looking for the answer.

Keith said the health department wanted to design a system to include the whole school, but a major problem had been the lack of space for fill lines.

During the discussion, Keith explained the idea behind the Bio-Clear system in which Superintendent Dr. Linda Ingram introduced to board members at the last board meeting, but he again said the lack of space on campus caused concern.

With space being a major concern, the focus of the project shifted to using the ball fields or finding land away from the school campus.

Thursday evening, Keith said the football field appeared to be the only field that was going to pass a perk test for soil, and he

said it would be big enough to put conventional fill lines. However, Ingram said she was not comfortable with doing this, and hoped another solution could be found.

Keith said his best recommendation for the board would be to find some land off campus to purchase. He said this would do away with the spacing problem and would allow room for future growth if needed.

In past discussions, Ingram said she had made Keith aware that the land adjacent to the school would not be an option for purchase, but he said the land would not have to be next to the school.

Of course, he did say the further away from the school the more costly the project, but he felt this would be the best course of action to take if the board could find some land to purchase.

Keith also suggested the school board have a certified soil scientist to come in and

look at whatever land chosen to place fill lines.

At the conclusion of this discussion, the board left Ingram with the option of looking to see if there might be some land in the area of the Zion Chapel School available for purchase.

The other major item of action during last week's meeting included personnel matters in which the board approved several recommendations from the superintendent.

Ingram said Andrews had

done many good things for Zion Chapel Elementary while leading that school, and she believes he will bring that same dedication to his new position.

The board also covered the vacancy Andrews' transfer would cause at Zion Chapel by changing Jerry Barnes' job title from 6-12 principal of Zion Chapel School to K-12 principal of Zion Chapel School.

In regards to other personnel matters, the board:

- * Approved a request for maternity leave under the Family Medical Leave Act from Kelly Cobb, first grade teacher at Zion Chapel Elementary School.
- * Accepted the resignation of Johnisha McRay as business education teacher at Kinross High School.
- * Accepted the voluntary transfer of Tracy Whittaker from third grade teacher at New Brockton Elementary School to part-time library media specialist/part-time reading teacher at New Brockton Elementary School.
- * Transferred Deadra Henson from sixth grade teacher at Zion Chapel School to the junior high level at Zion Chapel School.

Please See BOE, Page 3

Area Happenings

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12-month contract.

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EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS
With Ferrin Cox

All-new telephone books have recently been distributed in the Elba area. While some people file the old books away in the attic, most of us dispose of them, either immediately or within a few short weeks. Let us strongly urge you to put the old books into Elba's ongoing recycling system. In addition to the phone books, the system regularly recycles magazines, newspapers, cardboard, aluminum, #1 and #2 plastic bottles, as well as tin cans. This saves landfill cost, helps keep down future garbage disposal charges, and at the same time is further protection of the environment for future generations. Phone books pile up in a hurry and added to a few newspapers and magazines, can make a real difference.

Proposals to limit dog hunting in Alabama has raised the ilk of many area hunters, as was indicated in a recent letter-to-the-editor. The demands of society are changing and bringing with it stronger and stronger opposition to many of the world's traditions. Of course hunters who abuse the property of others hasten the implementation of new laws limiting hunting. America is not the only place these changes are taking place. In England, the age-old tradition of fox hunting may soon be ending. A new law being endorsed by the House of Commons would ban all fox hunting in England. While it may be stalled by opponents and will not find approval this year, British political experts predict it will become the law by next year.

Adding subsidies for prescription drugs to Medicare is the hot topic in Washington these days (aside from the upcoming presidential election). We fully understand the need for some sort of insurance, or something, to cushion the cost of today's expensive medications, yet there is a question of this being another step toward socialized medicine... something long resisted in the United States. The proposed prescription bill will cost billions and still is not a perfect answer for everyone's drug costs. If (or when) it is approved, we can expect expansions of the plan, and more cost to taxpayers, over the next several years. Right now we are puzzled over a clause in the bill that leaves a blip in prescription co-payments somewhere between the \$4,000 and over \$5,000 of medicine expense. The bill being considered co-pays up to a point, drops out for a while and then picks up again. Why?

Congress has another bill on the fast track that hopefully will never be put to the test of actually being used. It is the "order of succession list" for the federal government, should disaster strike the office of the president. The current order of succession lists Vice President Dick Cheney, House Speaker Dennis Hastert, Senate President Pro Tempore Ted Stevens, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Secretary of the Treasury John Snow, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Attorney General John Ashcroft and on down the list with Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge about 17th on the list. Many of the people in the offices listed probably are not more qualified than this country boy, but at least they are on the payroll. The new bill will pull Homeland Security up above Secretary of Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, HUD, Education, etc. That is probably good, but they need to proceed with caution, and not grant excessive powers to one agency head, or department. Even in times of disaster, we need to remember this is a country with pride in our freedoms. In other words, let's be careful in construction of this new Homeland Security agency... both in Washington and Alabama.

A recent opinion article we read makes things look bad for the Democrat's in the upcoming presidential elections. We George W. Bush and his Republican party holding a commanding lead over a Democratic party with no clear candidate at this point, the Democrats are by nature attracting all the "left of center" which means liberal groups, each with a singular, often narrow, cause. This grouping (or image) will reportedly further drive conservatives and moderates to George W., unless he falls flat or a miracle happens with the Democrats... and soon.

Oh, there are about 4,027 PACs registered in Washington as of Jan. 1st. All these folks have a political agenda and will be pumping millions into national campaigns. Some traditionally support either Democrats or Republicans while others follow either the most conservative or liberal talking candidate. Again, the liberals can't swallow George Bush, so they will pile up on whatever Democratic candidate survives the primaries. That will create a picture most Southern Democrats would rather not face on election day.

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The Elba Clipper

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6 Months - \$10, including city & state tax
Alabama Counties - \$21 per year - including tax
6 months - \$11
Outside Alabama - \$24 per year - 6 months - \$13

Why the flat tax is a good idea... Editorial by Senator Richard Shelby

In May of this year, Congress passed a \$330 billion tax cut. I strongly supported this initiative, and in fact, I would have preferred an even more robust tax cut. During the tax debate, I also introduced legislation that would change our current taxpaying system, but in an entirely different way - it's called the flat tax. The tax legislation would repeal the current Internal Revenue Code and replace it with a flat tax rate that would apply to all taxpayers. This means that all taxpayers would be taxed at an equal rate - seventeen percent. No more unfair

Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, beginning Monday, June 23, 2003, investigated the following incidents: two for reckless endangerment; three for harassment; one missing juvenile; one dog attack; one violation of a visitation order; one receiving stolen property; four for theft of property; one driving under the influence; one vehicle damage; one breaking and entering of a vehicle; one broken window; one sexual misconduct and one criminal mischief.

The following arrests were made: one for driving under the influence; two for failure to appear; one for minor in possession; one for harassment and one for assault.

Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: one for reckless endangerment; one for running a stop sign; one for no insurance; one for an improper u-turn and one for driving with a suspended driver's license.

Daily activity highlights for the week were as follows:
MONDAY, JUNE 23 - River stage - 8.62 feet (6:07 a.m.); Disturbance reported at the office of Jarod, Jarod & Brunson (2:19 p.m.); Disturbance reported on Jackson St. (11:15 p.m.).

TUESDAY, JUNE 24 - River stage - 8.08 feet (6:17 a.m.); Elba Fire Department dispatched to a house fire across from Whitewater Church (9:55 p.m.).

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BULLETIN BOARD

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• SOCIAL SECURITY REP - 1st Courthouse: 4th Tues. 12:30-1:30. Call FREE 1-800-772-1213
• ROTARY CLUB - Tuesday @ Noon-First First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
• ELBA CITY COUNCIL - 2nd & 4th Monday - 6 p.m.-City Hall
• WATER & ELECTRIC - Tuesday following 2nd Monday-6 p.m. - City Hall
• ELBA MINISTERIAL ASSN. - Tues. - 8 a.m. Elba United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall
• GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP-every Monday 6:30 p.m.-Elba United Methodist Church-enter on side on W. Davis St.-Maggie Garrett Classroom.
• COFFEE COUNTY COMMISSION - 2nd & 4th Monday - Community Room in Farm Center Complex @ New Brockton
• LIONS CLUB - 2nd & 4th Tues. - 6:30 p.m. Senior Citizens Center
• ELBA CITY SCHOOL BOARD - 1st Thurs. - 5:30 p.m. - Supt. Office
• AMERICAN LEGION - 1st Tuesday of every month-7:00 p.m. Legion Hall, Troy Hwy.
• MASONIC LODGE 178 - 1st & 3rd Monday of each month-7 p.m. - 7 p.m. Band Room @ Elba High School
• VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER - Mon-Fri. 8-12 noon & 12:30 - 4:30 New Brockton @ Farm Center Complex 894-5858
• COFFEE COUNTY COON HUNTERS ASSN. - 3rd Sat. - 3 p.m. - Club House
• COFFEE REPUBLICAN WOMEN - 3rd Wed. Noon - Colony Inn, Enterprise
• ELBA AIRPORT AUTHORITY - 2nd Thursday at noon, Driscoll Hanger at the Airport
• AARP meets every 3rd Tuesday night of the month
• ELBA ATHLETIC CLUB - 1st & 3rd Monday - 7 p.m. - Elba High boys locker room
• NEW SEASONS STUDY CLUB - Every 3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m.

special interest deductions, or unclear provisions, or painstaking forms to fill out. The flat tax simplifies every part of the taxpaying process, while providing a more fair system for all Americans to follow.

I have been a national advocate for this issue for nearly twenty years. I first introduced legislation to reform the U.S. tax code with a flat rate system on May 23, 1984, when I served in the United States House of Representatives. Since that time, I have introduced similar flat tax legislation five more times in the Senate. Before his

retirement in 2002, Representative Dick Army (R-TX) and I partnered on this cause - forming the "Congressional Flat Tax Caucus" and encouraged our colleagues to join us in this important initiative.

We know all too well that the tax code is painfully inefficient, and the complexities over which the average taxpayer has been more than 6,500 changes to the Internal Revenue Code. Each time Congress has the opportunity to make one of these changes, we add new layers of complexity and confusion to an already labyrinthine maze that no one can fully comprehend.

Our current tax code is convoluted and penalizes those who lack the resources to prepare their own taxes or hire a professional to determine their tax liability. Because the tax code is so complex, even the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) own experts are often uncertain of what is required to be in compliance with the current law. According to Daniel Pilla, a tax litigation consultant, in 1993 the IRS telephone taxpayer assistance program provided answers to about 8.5 million Americans the wrong answers to even the most basic inquiries about the tax laws. If the IRS, the very federal agency charged with enforcing the tax laws, cannot figure out the code, how can we expect the American people to do so?

My proposed flat tax will eliminate the complexity and correct the vast and pervasive inequities of the current system

by dramatically simplifying the tax code. Rather than wade through stacks of complicated IRS forms and instruction manuals, under a flat tax, taxpayers will file a simple postcard size return. This simple form is easily completed in minutes without the use of expensive professional assistance.

Under a flat tax, all American taxpayers would be taxed at the same rate, 17% when the tax is fully implemented. In place of itemized deductions that often favor special interest groups, the bill I introduced this Congress would give each taxpayer a generous standard deduction of \$12,790, or \$25,580 in the case of joint filers. Taxpayers would receive an additional \$5,510 standard deduction for each dependent. Therefore, a family of four would need to make over \$36,000 before they would pay a single penny of taxes.

People will not have to hire an accountant or attorney simply to comply with the law. Everyone will fill out the same simple return, everyone will be taxed at the same rate, and everyone will pay their fare share.

The time for major tax reform is now. Proposed amendments to the current tax code only perpetuate the complexities and inequalities of the current system. The flat tax would not only simplify the tax code so that all taxpayers could easily complete their own returns, it would more importantly treat all Americans equally. Only by treating every taxpayer equally can our tax code ever achieve true fairness.

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FOR A COOL DESSERT LARGE WATERMELONS \$2.97 EACH	ZESTY YELLOW ONIONS 2/3¢ 5 LB. BAG	CALIFORNIA RED RIPE STRAWBERRIES 2/3¢ 1 LB. CUP	
BEST BEST STRAWBERRY CHEERIOS 2/5¢ 1 LB. BAG	ASSORTED WESSON OIL \$1.87 48 OZ. BTL.	GREAT ON BAKED POTEAOS DAISY SOUR CREAM 97¢ 16 OZ. CUP	
PREMIUM TROPICANA ORANGE JUICE \$3.57 66 OZ. JUG	PURE CANE DOMINO SUGAR \$1.87 48 OZ. BTL.	ASSORTED REFRESHING COCA COLA 97¢ 2 LITER BTL.	GREEN GIANT CORN CANS \$1.87 16 OZ. CUP

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor, -

As state president of AARP Alabama, I represent our 400,000 members in telling Governor Bob Riley we are disappointed in the passing of House Bill 178 and everything associated with the bill. As a matter of fact, the payday lenders, the parties the bill was designed to regulate, are likely the only parties pleased with the bill.

The bill itself is an example of Alabama politics at its worse. Recently, the Alabama

BOE

(Continued from Page One)

* Transferred Jane Coale from sixth and seventh grade teacher to self-contained sixth grade teacher.

* Transferred Vera Mozzo from sixth and seventh grade teacher to self-contained sixth grade teacher.

* Transferred Sharon Sasser from sixth grade departmentalized teacher to sixth grade self-contained teacher.

Before adjourning, Ingram also gave board members an update concerning ongoing capital fund projects in which she said the Kinston wiring project is more than 50 percent completed. As for the projects at New Brockton and Zion Chapel, the superintendent said these two are progressing well.

Due to the Fourth of July holiday, the board also chose to cancel its regular meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 3. Ingram said there will probably be a need for a called meeting later in the month to discuss more personnel changes.

Legislature passed a substitute bill capping interest rates at 17.5 percent. But, this bill was not the bill that passed the House. The house bill contained a lower maximum lending rate and set up a statewide data base to monitor lending activity. These provisions were stripped out of the Senate bill at the request of the payday loan industry.

Proponents of the bill will claim the bill regulates the industry. In reality, the legislation is so weak that it may be meaningless. The Alabama Banking Department will have no real means of enforcement under the watered-down language of the legislation.

In the end, our only hope was that Gov. Riley would recognize

the flaws in the bill and veto. Hundreds of consumer advocates from around the state contacted his office asking him to veto. To our disappointment, he signed the bill into law.

If Gov. Riley is truly working to "take our state in a new direction," then putting a stop to "business as usual" in the legislature would have been good place to start.

Gloria Walker
AARP Alabama State
President

SHARE YOUR
VIEWS - WRITE A
LETTER TO THE
EDITOR

SAFETY

(Continued from Page One)

Khan, epidemiologist in the Injury Prevention Division.

The safest way to enjoy the dazzle of fireworks is at a community-sanctioned, licensed event. Alabama law allows only consumer fireworks, formerly known as class C fireworks.

Some municipalities outlaw fireworks altogether.

If fireworks are legal where you live and you decide to set them off on your own, be sure to follow these important safety tips:

* Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks.

* Read and follow all warnings and instructions.

* Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.

* Only light fireworks on a smooth, flat surface away from the house, dry leaves and flammable materials.

* Never try to relight fireworks that have not fully functioned.

* Keep a bucket of water nearby in case of a malfunction or fire.

As part of its fireworks enforcement program, CPSC prevents large numbers of hazardous fireworks from reaching consumers. Illegal mail order kits contain chemical mixtures that can explode unexpectedly and violently. M-80s, cherry bombs and quarter sticks are so highly explosive that they have been banned by federal law since 1966. Working with the U.S. Customs Service since 1988, CPSC has seized or detained more than 400 million hazardous fireworks at docks across the country.

Officials working to lessen monkeypox chances

The Alabama departments of Agriculture and Industries, Conservation and Natural Resources, and Public Health are working together to lessen the chances that monkeypox virus could be introduced into the state.

As of June 18, monkeypox, an illness native to Africa, has been diagnosed in 93 persons in Ohio, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas and Indiana. These illnesses have been linked to prairie dogs exposed to certain pet rodents imported from Africa and distributed to several states.

Alabama is not one of the states where these potentially infected pet rodents are known to have been distributed.

Federal and state regulations are in effect to ban the traffic and possession of these pets. On June 11, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration issued an order announcing an immediate embargo on the importation, sale, distribution, transport and release into the environment of all rodents from Africa. Furthermore, the

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has for years prohibited the sale and possession of wild rodents in Alabama.

State Health Officer Dr. Williamson said, "There is no reason to suspect that infected rodents are in Alabama, but we want to work with everyone to assure monkeypox is not inadvertently introduced into the state."

To prevent monkeypox virus from gaining a permanent

foothold in the United States, it is crucial that all animals linked to the original infected shipment be identified and properly disposed. Persons who have acquired any one of the following animals since April 1, 2003, should call their local county health department.

Health department staff will ascertain whether owners and their pets are reportedly in good health. Then they will contact staff of the departments of Conservation and Natural Resources and Agriculture and Industries for further follow-up. It is very important that owners not release these animals into the environment. To promote cooperation by the public, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will not cite owners of pet prairie dogs or other wild rodents identified through this cooperative effort.

The animals of concern include prairie dogs (Cynomys species) and the African rodents: • Tree squirrels (Helosciurus species) • Rope squirrels (Funisciurus species) • Dormice (Graphiurus species) • Gambian Giant Pouched Rats (Cricetomys species) • Bush-tailed porcupines (Atherurus species). • Striped mice (Hybomys species).

Persons who have acquired any of these listed animals since April 1 are asked to contact their county health department. The state agencies are working in

collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on this effort.

Salvation Army offers free booklet on planning will

When a person dies they must leave behind everything for which the have worked and saved. The question is, "TO WHOM?" If they have a will, they leave instructions to others to act according to their wishes. If they do not have a will, the State will simply distribute their estate according to law.

Without a Will the State may determine the disposition of their assets, the welfare of their spouse and guardianship of their children. Probate costs, taxes and fees may increase.

The Salvation Army offers a free booklet on wills and estate planning. Additional information on: examples of estate planning, what specifically does one need to know about estate planning, who needs to do estate planning, the use of trusts in an estate plan, setting goals and objectives, how to avoid mismanagement of assets by unskillful heirs, how to pre-plan for incapacity, and reducing taxes is also available by request. To receive a copy of the Will booklet call toll free 1-800-240-3736.

In Memory of Kayo Lewis

To all the people in this great state and county who knew, loved and respected Kayo for who he was and what he stood for, our hearts are truly humbled and grateful. We loved and miss him so much, but God had other plans for him. We thank you more than words can express to those of you who were with us during the transplant and the three years he fought for life. Your prayers, calls, visits, cards and concern were amazing.

May God bless and keep you all.
Jessie, Keith & Maxine

A poem follows written in 1987 by a friend:

The Java Convenience Store opened today
It's just a little store down the way
Ole Kayo is one of the best
God made him a little different from all the rest.

Whether he is in the seat of an 18 wheeler
Or acting for God as a hurt one healer
There is soothing & healing in his voice & hand
He is just about the greatest in this or any land.

The goodness that comes forth from him
With no selfish thought or whim
Going to the aid of anyone that does call
It's as if he hears God saying "give them your all".

The mild manner & strength he possesses each day
Will carry him all the way
No matter what business he goes into
The Fathers mighty hand will lead him through.

Viola Reid
(Buddy)

Obituaries

CLARENCE GROGG

Clarence "Buddy" Grogg, age 69, of Phenix City, Ala., died June 24, 2003 at his residence.

Funeral services were held June 27, 2003 at Vance Memorial Chapel in Phenix City, Ala. with Rev. Jimmy Stephens officiating. The burial followed at Lakeview Memory Gardens.

Mr. Grogg was preceded in death by his wife, Robbie Bedsole Grogg, and a grandson, Jonathan Eric Davis.

Survivors include one daughter: Margie Davis, Phenix City, Ala.; three sons: Junior Grogg, James Grogg and Michael

Grogg, all of Phenix City, Ala.; three sisters, Beulah Hise and Rosa Lee Hamilton, both of Va., and Cathy; one brother: David Grogg, Va.; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

ANNE MERL COLEMAN
Mrs. Annie Merl Coleman, age 81, died June 11, 2003.

Funeral services were held June 14, 2003 at St. John Baptist Church in New Hope, Ala. with Rev. Joseph N. Flowers officiating. The burial followed at St. John Baptist Church Cemetery with Coleman and Sowell Funeral Home directing.

Mrs. Coleman was preceded in death by her husband, Worthy Coleman; three sisters, Johnnie Will Thompson, Elouise Jones and Ada R. Belcher; two brothers, Jack Eusey and Veatrice Thompson.

Survivors include four sisters-in-law: Emma Mae Thomas, Clayton, Ala.; Arlene

CARD
OF
THANKS

GRAHAM FAMILY

The family of **MATTIE GRAHAM** would like to thank everyone for their kindness during their mother's illness and death. Thanks for the prayers, food & flowers; also a special thanks to Dr. Cochran & Dr. Dyess. The Wiregrass Hospice and the Nursing Staff of Elba General Hospital & Nursing Home.

7-3-1p

"Celebrate..."
Elba 150"

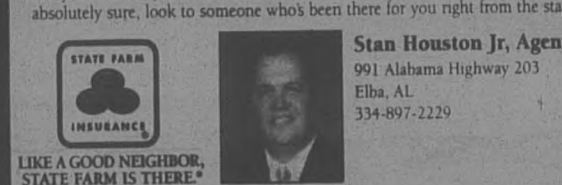
Upcoming Events

July 12
Birthday Party "150"
August 23
George Jones Concert
September 6
"Sesquicentennial," Ball
King/Queen Crowned
September 25
Chamber Banquet "150"
October 9
"The History of Elba" Play
October 10
Prayer Breakfast / "150"
T-shirt Day / Merchant
Appreciation Day
October 11
Grand Celebration
October 12
Reception

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*Source: Alabama Newspaper Readership Survey, Associated Research, December, 1999. Base: 2,791,000 adults age 18 and older who live in Alabama.

IT'S IN THE PAPER.

CHURCH & AREA NEWS

Liberty Church of Christ to hold Vacation Bible School July 14-18

Liberty Church of Christ will hold Vacation Bible School July 14-18, 2003 from 8:00 - 8:15.

Ages 3 through 6th grade are invited to attend the theme will be "Mission: All Things Are Possible."

Supper will be served nightly. Liberty Church of Christ is located 6 miles from Elba on the Samson Highway, for more info, call Dana Mack at 898-2982.

Homecoming planned at Greater Springfield Missionary Baptist Church

Greater Springfield Missionary Baptist Church in New Brockton, Ala. will hold Homecoming July 13, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. and Revival Services July 14 - 18, 2003 at 7:15 p.m. nightly.



COME ONE, COME ALL To VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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ROUND & ABOUT WITH ERIA

897-2006

Scripture: Galatians 1:11-24

***Thinking of you, praying for you: Marie Tillis, O.B. Daniels, Murry Barnes, Alan Belcher, Nancy Flowers, Mattie Belcher, Keitha Edwards and baby, Ella M. Brooks, Ronnie Smith, Maggie Head, Rev. N.L. Robinson, Ruth Belcher, Ann Jones, Estelle Franklin, Brandy Kelley, Rev. Charles Lane and Homer C. Coleman.

***June Birthdays: Glen Kelley - June 30.

***The 3rd Anniversary for Reverend Robin McKinnon pastor of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Elba, Ala. will be held July 6, 2003 at 2:30 p.m. The guest minister will be Rev. Freddie Flowers, pastor of Shady Grove Church in Elba.

***Donald Smith and Quinton, Rosalyn Morse, Gregory Scott Kelley from Charlottesville, Va. visited Ernestine Kelley and other family members recently. The group attended the picnic at

Milton and Betty Belcher's in Montgomery before returning to Va.

***Milton and Betty Belcher of Montgomery, Ala. surprised Eria Lindsey Belcher of Elba on Saturday, June 28, 2003 at their home with a picnic and the opening of their fish pond on their farm. Eria and Ernestine Kelley were the first to fish in the pond in memory of Tillman Lindsey (Papa Tillman) and Grover Belcher (Daddy Grover). There were relatives and friends from Elba, Tusculumbia, Opp, Enterprise, Le Grand, Montgomery, Virginia and Tennessee.

Eria says thank you to everyone who came on June 28, 2003, and thank you to Milton and Betty for the great surprise.

Today is a good day, be grateful!

Eria



ON JUNE 19, MARION B. BRUNSON (right) of Elba was presented two certificates recognizing approval of two additional ancestors who served the colonies during the Revolutionary War. Making the presentation was Bruce H. Taylor (left), president, Wiregrass Chapter, Alabama Society, Sons of the American Revolution.

Sarah Maddox admitted to the Coordinated Program in Diabetes at University of Alabama

Sarah Maddox has been admitted to the Coordinated Program in Diabetes at The University of Alabama. As one of only 51 coordinated diabetes programs in the nation, and the only one in Alabama, admission to The University of Alabama's program is highly competitive. Cumulative grade point average, a comprehensive admission examination, and letters of recommendation are considered in the selection criteria.

The University of Alabama's Coordinated Program in Diabetes is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education, and prepares students with integrated

Tailgate Party planned at Klondyke Gospel Music Center

The Annual Tailgate Party at the Klondyke Gospel Music Center will begin at 4:00 p.m., Saturday, July 5th featuring a covered dish dinner and watermelon cutting. The Center is located at 3885 Highway 123 South, Traditional Blue Grass. The party will begin at 7:00 p.m. with The Millers, from Chipley, Fla. No admission charge.

Chestnut Grove Methodist Church to celebrate Homecoming

Chestnut Grove Methodist Church will hold Homecoming on July 13, 2003. Service will begin at 11:00. Rev. Douglas Golden will bring the message. A special singing with Derek Snellgrove, and dinner will follow the service. Revival will begin on Monday, July 14 at 7:00 p.m. with Bro. Mack King and St. John Choir in charge of service. Tuesday, July 15, Bro. Donnie Marler and Victoria Baptist Church will be in charge of service. Wednesday, July 16, Bro. Ben McKee and New Brockton Methodist will be in charge of service.

Mt. Zion to hold revival

A revival will be held every Monday night in July at 7:00 p.m. at Mt. Zion. The speakers will be Galen McWaters, Randy Halcomb, Mark Ward and Billy Miles. A special singing will be held each night. Everyone is invited to attend.

Coffee County Farmers Market to be open on Fridays & Saturdays in New Brockton

The Coffee County Farmers Market, in New Brockton, has been very successful. In order to give more people the opportunity to shop there starting on June 27th the market will also be open on Friday evenings from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. and also be open on Saturday mornings from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. If business and vegetables continue the market may be opening for more days and longer hours. For now the market is open on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday mornings and Friday evenings.

Deadline for Church News is Monday

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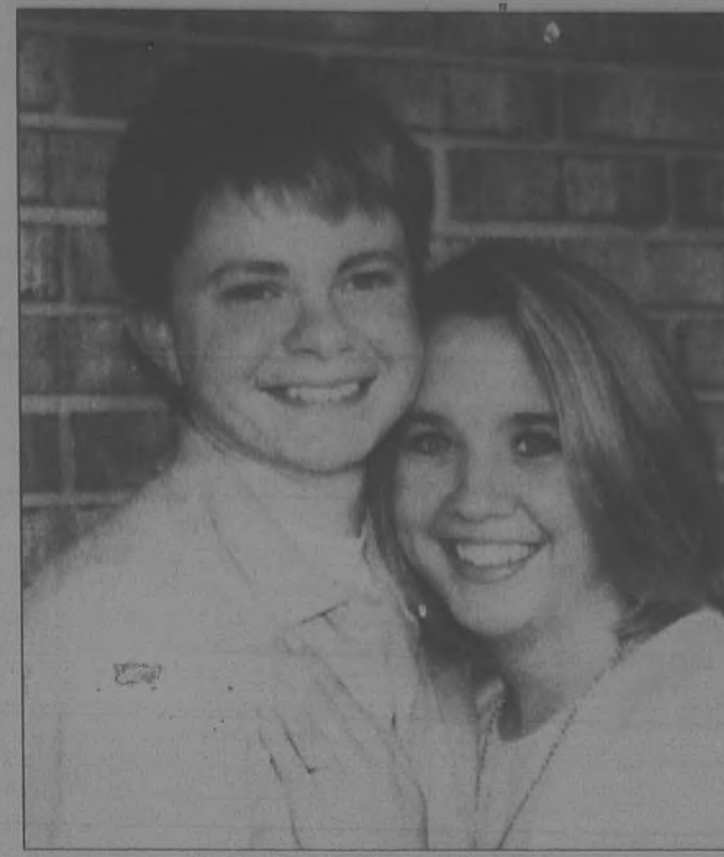
Church Directory

IN HIM WAS LIFE AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN ALBERTON BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Even. Worship.....6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 p.m.	ELBA BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Even. Worship.....6:00 p.m. Wed. Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.	ELBA CHURCH OF CHRIST Timothy Gunnels, Minister Bible Study.....9:00 a.m. Morn. Worship.....10:00 a.m. Even. Service.....6:00 p.m. Wed. Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.	ELBA CHURCH OF GOD Rev. Sam Totten, Pastor Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Even. Worship.....6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 p.m.	ELBA CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY J.E. Wesley, Pastor Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Sunday Afternoon.....5:30 p.m. Wed. Service.....7:00 p.m.	ELBA DELIVERANCE TABERNACLE Allen Richards, Pastor Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Even. Service.....6:00 p.m. Wed. Service.....7:00 p.m.	ELBA 1st ASSEMBLY OF GOD Pastor Rev. Ray Davis Sunday School.....10:30 a.m. Morn. Worship.....10:30 a.m. Even. Service.....6:00 p.m. Wed. Service.....7:00 p.m.	ELBA 1st BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor Rev. Roger Miller Sunday School.....9:00 a.m. Morn. Worship.....10:00 a.m. Even. Service.....6:00 p.m. Wed. Service.....6:30 p.m.	ELBA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Rev. John L. Baxter, Pastor Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship.....10:00 a.m. Even. Service.....6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting.....6:00 p.m.	ELBA 2nd BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor Rev. Larry Martin, Pastor Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Even. Service.....6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting.....7:00 p.m.	FAIRVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Even. Service.....6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 p.m.	FAITH CHAPEL COMMUNITY CHURCH Ralph Medley Jr., Pastor Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Even. Service.....6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 p.m.	IN ASSEMBLY OF GOD - KINSTON Danny Bradshaw, Pastor Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Wed. Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.	FRIENDSHIP HOLINESS Andy Marler, Pastor Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m. Wed. Service.....7:00 p.m.	GREATER NEW ZION BAPTIST CHURCH Willie L. Peterson, Pastor Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Wed. Service.....7:00 p.m.	LOVE'S WAY CHURCH Rev. Charles K. Jones, Pastor Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m. Wed. Service.....7:00 p.m.	MT. CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH J.R. Parks, Pastor Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. 1st & 3rd Sundays	MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH Dr. Ray Day, Pastor Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Even. Service.....6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting.....7:00 p.m.	MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH Rev. Hubert McWaters, Pastor Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Even. Service.....6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting.....7:00 p.m.	MT. VERNON ASSEMBLY OF GOD Ray Layton, Pastor Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Even. Service.....6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting.....7:00 p.m.	MILBERRY HILL CHURCH OF CHRIST R. B. Williams, Minister Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Even. Service.....6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting.....7:00 p.m.	MUSTARD SEED FOUNDATION Mary Seavey Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship.....10:30 a.m. Even. Service.....5:00 p.m. Wed. Night Service.....5:00 p.m.	NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH Bro. Jerry Long, Pastor Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Even. Service.....7:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 p.m.	NEW PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST Lorelei Flowers, Minister Sunday School.....9:30 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:30 a.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays	NEW JERUSALEM CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST - ENTERPRISE W. K. Ellison, Pastor Morning Worship.....9:00 a.m. Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m. Tuesday Evening.....7:00 p.m. Friday Evening.....7:00 p.m.	NEWBRIA BAPTIST CHURCH Rev. Wayne Webber Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Even. Service.....5:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 p.m.	NEW BROCKTON METHODIST CHURCH Rev. Ben McKee, Pastor Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Even. Service.....6:00 p.m. Wed. Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.	NEW CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH Rev. Elbert Smith, Pastor Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Bible Study.....11:00 a.m. Even. Service.....6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting.....6:00 p.m.	NEW EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH Duane Delaney, Pastor Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Even. Service.....5:30 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting.....6:30 p.m.	NEW HAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Even. Service.....6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting.....6:30 p.m.	SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH Bro. Joe Farris, Pastor Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Even. Service.....6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting.....6:30 p.m.	TAYLOR HILL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor Rev. Layla Hodge Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Even. Service.....6:00 p.m. Wed. Night Service.....7:00 p.m. Friday Prayer Meeting.....5:00 p.m.	VANDERBILT HOLINESS CHURCH Pastor Rev. Roy L. Turner Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Even. Service.....5:00 p.m. Wed. Night Service.....6:00 p.m.	VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH Donnie Marler, Pastor Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Even. Service.....7:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 p.m.	WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor - Rev. Bobby Holladay Sunday School.....9:00 a.m. Morn. Worship.....10:00 a.m. Even. Service.....5:30 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting.....7:00 p.m.	WHITEWATER BAPTIST CHURCH Mike Medley, Pastor Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Even. Service.....6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting.....6:00 p.m.	WISE HILL ASSEMBLY OF GOD Kenneth Hagler, Pastor Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Even. Service.....6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 p.m.	WOODLAND GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH Rev. Alfred Iker, Pastor Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Even. Service.....5:30 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting.....7:00 p.m.	WOOTEN CHAPEL ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH Mike Medley, Pastor Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Even. Service.....6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting.....7:00 p.m.	ROKTON BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Even. Service.....6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting.....7:00 p.m.	SHADY GROVE AME Rev. F.L. Flowers, Pastor Sunday School.....11:00 a.m. Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Even. Service.....5:00 p.m. Wed. Bible Study.....6:00 p.m.
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LIFESTYLES

Miss Lewis & Mr. Utz to be united in marriage Saturday, October 25



Mr. Utz & Miss Lewis

Thorn Reunion planned for Saturday, July 5th

The Thorn Family Reunion will be held Saturday, July 5, 2003 at the Senior Citizen Center in Samson, Ala. All paper goods will be furnished.

Alabama family to celebrate 100th Horn Reunion on July 20th

Outdoor fun, old-fashioned recipes and other southern family traditions will headline the agenda Sunday, July 20th as the 100th Annual Horn Reunion gets underway at the historic Horn Shelter, located in

Glenwood, just seven miles Southeast of Luverne in Crenshaw County.

The Horn Family Reunion, held traditionally each third Sunday in July, is one of the oldest consecutive family gatherings held in the state of Alabama. The historic Horn Shelter, located in Crenshaw County, approximately 50 miles South of Montgomery off U.S. Highway 331 near Luverne, has served as the landmark site for

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Keith Lewis of Elba announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Keitha Michelle to Ralph Edward Utz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ralph Utz of Headland, Ala.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Mrs. Gwen Marsh of Elba and the late Robert L. Marsh, and Mrs. Jessie M. Lewis of New Hope, Ala. and the late Donald Kayo Lewis.

She is a 2001 graduate of Crenshaw Christian Academy and is currently pursuing a career in physical therapy at Wallace Community College.

The future groom is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. E.T. Nichols of Eufaula, and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Edward Utz of Daleville, Ala.

He is a 2001 graduate of Headland High School and attended Wallace Community College. He is employed as a certified Network Engineer in Dothan.

The wedding will be an event of Saturday, October 25, 2003 at Elba's United Methodist Church at 2:00 in the afternoon. A reception will follow in the church fellowship hall. All friends and relatives are invited to attend.



(Front row, left to right): Sylvia Padgett, Lloyd Crook, Syble Hahn, Cupidean Crook, Lynda Berry, Frances Prior, Miriam Parker, Merle Bragg, Marlene Willis, Peggy Storey, Dixie Davis. (Back row, left to right): Leon Hornsby, Buna Faye Hornsby, Judy Killingsworth

The Coffee County Education Retiree's hold candlelighting ceremony

The Coffee County Education Retiree's held their final meeting of the 2002-2003 year at Moseley's Studio.

Jerkins Family Reunion scheduled for Saturday, July 19

The Jerkins Family Reunion will be held July 19, 2003 at the PZK Civic Park in Robertsdale, Ala. starting at 9:00 a.m. - until. Everyone is asked to bring covered dishes of food and non-alcoholic beverages. Bring family information and pictures.

held in honor of the deceased members during the past year. Following the candlelighting ceremony, Peggy Stroud, better known as Aunt Maggie, entertained the group. The emphasis of her presentation was laughter. A business meeting followed the program.



Clay Parrish Cotney

Clay Parrish Cotney celebrates first birthday

On Sunday, March 30, Clay Parrish Cotney, son of Larry and Lori Cotney, celebrated his first birthday at his home in Chancellor. Family and friends enjoyed watching Clay open gifts and dig into his baseball cake. Everyone then helped themselves to cake, homemade ice cream, cookies, chips, and punch.

Clay is the grandson of Stan and Deloris Marsh of Elba, and Fred and Beth Cotney of Lakeland, Fla. He is also the great-grandson of Doyle and Grace Wilkerson, and Gwendolyn Marsh of Elba, and Louvenia Pepper of Lakeland, Fla.

Bozeman-Taylor wedding held March 22



Mr. & Mrs. Jason Heath Bozeman



Hannah Taylor honored with showers

Hannah Taylor, bride elect of Heath Bozeman, was feted with wedding showers. On Saturday afternoon, Feb. 22, 2003, a Miscellaneous Shower was held at the bride's home, and hosted by her family. Many friends and family enjoyed various games and snacks. Hannah received many useful and lovely gifts. Those in attendance included her mother, Sonya Taylor; her grandmothers, Margaret Tew and Maud Shitley, and Mary

escorted by her husband, Paul Bozeman.

The guests were invited to attend the reception in the church fellowship hall, which was beautifully decorated. A table was set up to show pictures of the bride and groom as they grew to this day.

The wedding cake was decorated with blue and yellow flowers. A ceramic bride and groom statue sat atop the cake. The groom's cake was chocolate, with a bunch of grapes to accent the top. It was decorated by Mary Bozeman with a tractor, fire truck, and electric truck to show the many interest of her son, Heath. The tables were decorated with a color scheme, and included a pair of ceramic white doves, Meatballs, sandwiches, cheese straws, mints, and a fruit tray were just some of the foods for the guests to partake of.

Mrs. Elaine Bozeman, aunt of the groom made the cakes, as well as directed the reception.

Servers included Michelle Hafner, Vicki King, Angela Lester, Billie Ann Holmes, Deedee Green, and Shae Morrell.

A black pant suit with white daisies is what Hannah chose to wear as they left the church. Heath chose a blue shirt and jeans. Family and friends wished them well as bubbles filled the air.

After a trip to Gatlinburg, Tenn., the couple resides in Goshen, Ala.

For her daughter's wedding, Mrs. Taylor chose a mid-length dress of pale gray, accented with pink flowers. She was escorted to her seat by her son, Aaron Taylor.

As the groom's mother, Mrs. Bozeman chose a mid-length dress of light purple. She was

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COMMUNITY NEWS

150th Birthday Bash set for July 12 in Elba

If a picnic with the family sounds like a good idea, the historic courthouse square in Elba will be the place to be Saturday evening, July 12, as the "Celebrate Elba 150" committee hosts a birthday bash beginning around 5 p.m.

According to committee members, this event will offer a chance for interested parties to gather around one of Elba's most cherished sites to enjoy good fellowship, food and fun while commemorating this special time for the City of Elba and its people.

As for what to expect, committee members said don't worry about cooking for supper because there will be plenty of eats and treats perfect for a picnic prepared by local organizations and available for purchase. The Elba Fire Department will be cooking hamburgers and hot dogs and will also be selling soft drinks while the Elba Band Boosters will have lemonade and watermelon slices, just to name a few.

Also for the entire family, Elba's own Dr. Sam Faulk will be in town to spin music between the

hours of 6:30-8:30 p.m. He currently serves as a disc jockey for a radio station in Montgomery.

There will also be special activities for the youngsters as "Jama the Clown" will be in town to entertain with the Moon Walk, a train and other kiddie rides. This talented clown will also be able to satisfy that sweet tooth with her snow cones and cotton candy.

Finally, no birthday bash would be complete without an explosive ending, therefore, the "Celebrate Elba 150" committee hopes everyone will stick around to enjoy a huge fireworks display beginning sometime between 8:30 and 9 p.m. This is promised to be the biggest fireworks show Elba has ever produced, and committee members said no one will want to miss this great exhibition.

So, bring those lawn chairs or blankets because it's going to be a huge party, and everyone is invited to come on out for all the fun and festivities.

Professional photographs with a patriotic background will also be offered throughout the evening.

Tax incentive promotes economic development

Recently, members of the Alabama House of Representatives took another step to promote economic development.

House Bill 635, sponsored by Rep. Terry Spicer, D-Elba, will authorize counties and cities to grant local abatements for non-educational taxes pursuant to the state's brownfield recovery statute.

"This effort further recognizes the importance of revitalizing property," said Spicer. "Assistance provided by additional incentives is yet another way to encourage property recovery.

clinging and clean up." The EPA defines brownfields as "real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant."

Known as the Brownfield Development Tax Abatement Act, this legislation reaffirms the significance of rejuvenating previously utilized property.

"Recovering brownfield sites is a viable way to bring additional revenue into the community," said Spicer.

Methodist Church marks 150 years of ministry to Elba community



HISTORICAL MARKER IN PLACE Above Minister John I. Baxter, Trustees Chairman Donnie Morrow and Church Historian Marion Brunson pose beside the new historic marker at the United Methodist Church in Elba. The marker was installed at the front of the church, facing Davis Street. In the background are examples of the church's stained glass windows, many placed in honor of the Confederate dead of Coffee County, Alabama. The uniqueness of these windows were the subject of interest in a recent visit to Elba by a national magazine.

The rains Sunday morning, June 29th, 2003 failed to deter the members of the Methodist Church from going ahead with the ceremonies marking the unveiling of the historical marker denoting the Church the oldest continually operating religious group in the City of Elba.

This Church has been in existence for at least 150 years, according to documented records within the organization. The first written records are of a Circuit Rider being assigned to serve the already established Church congregation 150 years ago.

The present facility was constructed in the early 1900s, moving the congregation from a white frame building located on the original banks of Beaver Dam Creek, in what is now the middle of a main city street.

Checkpoints for a safe summer grilling experience

by Susan Taylor
Extension Agent/ACENBP

To help you enjoy your summer, here are some checkpoints for safe grilling the next time you fire up the grill.

Using a food thermometer is the only way to accurately determine a safe internal temperature is reached.

Insert the thermometer in the thickest part of the food away

from bone, fat or gristle.

Cooking is key to meat and poultry safety. If needed, scrape the grill before grilling. Heat the grill to kill microorganisms before placing meat or poultry on it.

Cook ground beef patties to 160 degrees F. The only way to accurately determine doneness is with an instant-read thermometer. The color alone cannot be used to assure a ham-

burger has been properly cooked.

The thermometer should penetrate the thickest part of the hamburger. Insert the thermometer from the side about 2 to 3 inches so it reaches the center of the patty. Unless a food thermometer was used to verify the temperature, do not eat a ground beef patty that is pink or red in the middle.

While the U.S. Department of Agriculture recommends ground meats should be heated to 160 degrees F to kill microorganisms, the temperature for a steak can be 145 degrees F for "medium rare." A "medium" steak is cooked to 160 degrees F and a "well done" is cooked to 170 degrees F. Use a tongs or spatula to turn steaks rather than a fork which punctures the meat and introduces bacteria into the interior of the meat.

Whole poultry should be cooked to 180 degrees F in the thigh. Breast meat should be cooked to 170 degrees F. When poultry is done cooking, juices will run clear with no pink when you cut into the meat.

If you're preparing steaks, ground meat and/or poultry at the same time, use a different knife, utensil or thermometer to check for doneness. For example, don't use the same thermometer to test steaks you used for hamburgers. Remember to wash thermometers in hot soapy water and hot rinse water before and after use.

Adding sauces or spices to meat may make it look brown before it is done. Brush or sprinkle sauces/spices on the surface of the meat after it has been cooked.

Cook meat and poultry completely at the picnic site. Partial cooking of foods ahead of time allows bacteria to survive and multiply to the point that subsequent cooking may not destroy them.

Use a separate clean tongs or spatula for removing meat or poultry from the grill and place on a clean plate to avoid cross-contamination with uncooked meat.

Discard any food left out for more than two hours or one hour if the temperature is above 90 degrees F. When in doubt, throw it out!

Don't forget to wash your hands before and after grilling.

For more information on safe grilling practices, contact the Alabama Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry at (205) 966-1234.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Girl Scouts to have Summer Fun Day Camp in July

The Girl Scouts of South Central Alabama are sponsoring a week long Summer Fun Day Camp for all girls 5-12 years of age. This camp is not just for girl scouts; all girls are urged to attend. The Camp will be July 14th-18th from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The Summer Fun Day Camp will be held at Camp Hummingbird located between Elba and New Brockton. Activities include swimming, paddle boating, nature hikes, crafts, cheer, dance, sign language, games, movies and many other activities. The cost for the camp is \$50.00 per participant. Slots are limited to 100 participants, and are filling up quickly. The registration deadline is July 4th. For more information or for a registration form call Alicia Cardwell, Membership Specialist, at the Enterprise Girl Scout Office at 347-1955.

Alabama Forestry Owner's Association donates children's books to library

The Alabama Forestry Owner's Association is donating the following children's books to the Elba Public Library: Christmas Tree Farm by Sandra Jordan, A Log's Life by Wendy Pfeffer, and Shelterwood by Susan Hand Shetterly.

Each of these books holds a lot of information for the young reader. They are fun reading books but are also very educational.

Beginning Smoking Course offered at LBW-MacArthur Campus

Lurleen B. Wallace Community College - MacArthur Campus will offer a two-week, course, in Beginning Smoking. The class will meet each Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. The class will begin Tuesday, July 8, 2003 and end on Thursday, July 17, 2003.

Beginning Smoking provides instruction for five basic smoking techniques. No sewing experience required. At the conclusion of the course, students should be able to smock a simple geometric smocking design. Students will also be taught how to prepare fabric for smocking, select a smocking pattern, read a smocking pattern, center design, and select appropriate smocking needles and thread.

The cost of the course is \$40.00. In addition to the cost of the course, students will need to purchase a smocking kit from the instructor at the first class meeting. The cost of the kit will be \$10.00. The kit will include one pleated fabric insert, smocking pattern, smocking needle, and thread.

Space is limited. Anyone interested in this course should register before Monday, July 7, 2003. For more information or to register, contact Susan Dee at (334) 493-3573, ext. 260.

Miss National Peanut Festival pageant Orientation held recently

The 2003 Miss NPF Contestants met recently at Wallace College for Orientation for this year's Miss National Peanut Festival Pageant. Preliminaries for this year's pageant will be held at the Dothan Civic Center, Friday October 24; Verbal Communications Preliminary will be at 2 p.m. and Evening Gown Preliminary will be at 7 p.m. Pageant Finals will be held at the Dothan Civic Center, Saturday October 25 at 7 p.m. Those from area participating was: Miss Coffee County - Mandi Stephenson, Miss Enterprise - Amelia Jones, Miss Zion Chapel - Whitney Stephens, Miss National Peanut Festival - Hannah Yohn, Miss Elba - Anna Anderson, Miss New Brockton - Haley Wise and Miss Kinston - Tasha Reeves.



Bruce Bush

Bruce Bush is promoted to Colonel in USAF

Bruce A. Bush, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Bush of Andalusia, was promoted to Colonel on June 1, 2003. He is currently stationed at Randolph Air Force Base in Texas serving as the Director of Services for Air Education Training Command. Colonel Bush is a 1977 graduate of Elba High School and received his Bachelors from Troy State University in 1981. He joined the Air Force following graduation from Troy State and received his Masters in 1983 from Florida Institute of Technology. Bush is married to the former Jennifer Bimbo, also of Elba and they have two children.

Their daughter is currently attending The University of Alabama, Birmingham and their son is a high school senior in Texas.

Catherine Elizabeth Bedsole inducted into Sigma Sigma Sigma honorary society

During a special convocation this spring at Huntingdon College, selected students were recognized for their academic achievement, character and service with induction into the honorary Sigma Sigma Sigma, an honorary society for seniors. Members are elected by the faculty and the members honored during the preceding year. The basis of selection is high attainment in scholarship, spirit, and service.

Included in the group was Catherine Elizabeth Bedsole, daughter of Richard and Sonya Bedsole, Elba, AL, majoring in Psychology (SSS) (Tt-Sigma).

Celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2004, Huntingdon College is a private coeducational liberal arts college related

Area students on Dean's List & Presidents List at University of Montevallo

More than 660 University of Montevallo students were named to the honor roll for the spring semester.

The President's List included the names of 348 students. To make the President's List, a student must earn at least a 3.8 grade point average on a 4.0 scale and be a full-time student at the university.

Dean's List honors went to 317 students. To make the Dean's List, a student must earn at least a 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale and be a full-time student at the university.

President's List from Elba includes Annie Perry of Jack and Shanna Tills of Elba.

Dean's List from Elba includes Carmenda Coleman of Elba.

New books available at Elba Public Library

Christian Fiction
Goudge, Eileen - Wish Come True
Peterson, Tracie - Beneath a Harvest Sky

Fiction
Cussler, Clive - White Death
Delinsky, Barbara - Flirting With Pete
Garlock, Dorothy - Mother Road

Books on Tape
Clark, Mary Higgins - Weep No More, My Lady

Whitney Hobson takes top honors at 2002-2003 Alabama Penman Creative Writing Contest

Whitney Hobson, an 8th grade student at Emerald Mountain Christian School, took top honors in the 2002-2003 Alabama Penman Creative Writing Contest. Whitney's essay, "A Profile of Four Founding Fathers," written about John Adams, John Hancock, Alexander Hamilton and Patrick Henry, won the 3rd Congressional District level 1st place and then placed 1st place in state finals. The award was presented by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, State Board District III member, at Emerald Mountain Christian School's Awards Day on Friday, May 30. In presenting the award, Mrs. Bell told the exited student body that Whitney had competed against private and public school students and that the writing was strictly judged on writing and research skills and subject content. The winning essay is available on the Internet at the State Department of Education site. Whitney was also presented the George W. Bush Presidential Certificate for Academic Excellence. She has been a student at Emerald Mountain Christian School throughout her schooling, and is very active at Eastmont Baptist Church. Her parents are Richard and Susie Hobson. Grandparents are Charlotte and Richard Hobson of Elba and Tobiana and Ed Cain of Enterprise.



Austin Boothe

Austin Boothe is a recipient of a TSU Scholarship

Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., Chancellor of Troy State University System, has recently announced that Austin Boothe of Elba is the recipient of a Troy State University scholarship. Austin will become a Trojan in the fall of 2003. He will transfer from Enterprise State Junior College. Austin is the son of Roger and Pat Boothe of Elba.

Local student graduates from Brevard College

Joann Schmahfeldt of Elba recently received a bachelor's degree in Integrated Studies from Brevard College in Brevard, N.C.

Celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, Brevard College is a four-year comprehensive liberal arts college located in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. Brevard College is affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Caring faculty and

staff and small class size allow students to be known, their interests and activities to be supported and their voices heard. A range of majors including Fine Arts, Wilderness

Leadership & Experiential Education, Environmental Studies, Business & Organizational Leadership, Music, Theatre, Religion Studies and Integrated Studies is available to our diverse student

population (from 37 states and 20 foreign countries). We also have a distinguished and successful history in intercollegiate athletics for both men and women. U.S. News and World Report ranks Brevard College second in the nation for its First Year Experience program for first year students, among the best comprehensive colleges in the southern United States and a "Best Value."

Birmingham-Southern College announces spring term 2003 Dean's List

Nearly 300 students were named to the Dean's List of Distinguished Students for the spring 2003 Term at Birmingham-Southern College.

Full-time students named to the Dean's List have achieved a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher.

Birmingham-Southern is a four-year private institution that

receives consistently high rankings as one of America's top liberal arts colleges.

Included on the Dean's List from Elba is Wesley Kelley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Kelley.

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Fosamax (10mg/20mg)	\$206	\$133 36%	Prozac (10mg/20mg)	\$128	\$ 58 54%
Glucophage (500mg/850mg)	\$ 60	\$ 28 53%	Plavix (75mg/90mg)	\$109	\$ 68 37%
Lipitor (20mg/40mg)	\$280	\$163 43%	Pravastatin (10mg/20mg)	\$120	\$ 30 75%
Prilosec (30mg/60mg)	\$344	\$156 55%	Nexium (10mg/20mg)	\$120	\$ 60 48%
Tamoxifen (20mg/40mg)	\$180	\$ 33 82%	Synthroid (50mg/100mg)	\$ 55	\$ 17 70%
Zocor (20mg/40mg)	\$340	\$174 49%	Zyrtec (1mg/2mg)	\$ 50	\$ 20 60%

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Join us in Celebrating Elba's History!!

This special issue will look at today and yesterday in Elba, but we need your help...If you have any pictures or memories from yesteryear, please drop by the office and share them with us. We need any and all information to create an unforgettable tribute to the City of Elba and its people.

Photographs and antique documents will be copied and returned!

The Elba Clipper • (334) 897-2823 • clipper@alaweb.com

MDA Labor Day telethon talent search underway

Auditions are being held for the 2003 Jerry Lewis MDA Labor Day Telethon.

Those selected in MDA's "Stars Across America" talent search will appear live on the Telethon from Hollywood, New York and other remote locations on Monday, Sept. 1.

The 21 1/2-hour live broadcast begins at 6 p.m. EDT on Aug. 31. Candidates must be at least 18 years old and must provide their own music (either live or pre-recorded). VHS format videotapes of performances (not to exceed 4 minutes in length) are to be sent to: Jerry Lewis MDA Labor Day Telethon Talent Search 2003, 7800 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036. All tapes become the property of the Telethon and will not be returned. Deadline for receipt of tapes is July 11.

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Applications will continue to be processed as residents are admitted.

SPORTS

Views from....

THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

My youngest daughter told me last week that if I would buy a riding mower she would keep the yard cut the rest of the summer. I didn't go out and buy one, but it did bring back memories when I was young and my brothers and I complained to our Dad that the riding mower was too slow and it took too long to cut the grass. After a few weeks of hearing us fuss he left the house one Saturday and came home with a big Yazoo push mower and told us we could now cut the grass just as fast as we wanted to. While we did get the yard cut a little faster, it didn't take us long to wish we had that slow riding mower back. Just another lesson learned, and never forgotten.

SWINGS AND MISSES...

*** The All-Star season kicked off full blast last week for baseball and softball teams from Elba as six teams hit the tournament trail. In baseball the Dixie Minor All-Stars battled Geneva on even terms through six innings before giving out and losing, while the softball teams all won their first games in their tournaments and will still be alive this week in the double-elimination events. The surprise so far in tournament play came over in Dothan where the Dixie Boys 13-Year-Old All-Stars defeated both Ozark and Dothan Southern to claim runner-up honors behind Enterprise. The All-Stars and their parents made the long trip to the east side of Dothan four nights during the tournament and let their mark with their fine play and the great support from the large number of supporters. It would be a major upset if any of the Elba All-Star teams bring home a championship, but so far they have all played well and made their fans proud. Great job...keep it up!

*** I talked with former Elba Tiger player and assistant coach Leavy Boutwell last week and the new Northview Cougar coach sounded like he was meeting the challenge of coaching the Cougars head on and was actually looking forward to the season. Northview has struggled to 22 straight losses over the past three seasons and will be under the guidance of its third head coach in three years. However, Coach Boutwell is convinced he will begin the rebuilding process this season and that his team will play hard and play the game fundamentally sound in all areas. He didn't guarantee any wins or make any predictions, except to say that the players were buying into his beliefs and had a positive attitude. Rome wasn't built in a day, and Northview's football program won't be rebuilt in just one year, but there is no doubt in my mind that Coach Boutwell is the man for the job and the Cougars fans will see improvement very quickly. Oh yes, joining Coach Boutwell at Northview as an assistant is Matt Henderson, another former Elba Tiger standout. Coach Henderson was on staff at Geneva the past three years with Boutwell after spending a couple of years at Flomaton, and moved over to Northview when Boutwell was hired. All Elba fans need to keep an eye on these two former Tigers as they battle in the 6A ranks.

*** Former Alabama football coach Mike Price may never get the chance to be a head coach again at the college level, but he is trying to help his retirement plans by suing Sports Illustrated and possibly the University of Alabama. Coach Price paid a \$20 million suit against the sports magazine for an article it printed that all but stated Price was a "dirty old man" that liked to drink, while his suit against Alabama will be over severance pay. While it seems unlikely that Price has much of a chance of winning either suit, it looks like his name will stay on the sports pages longer than it did as head coach at Bama.

*** The softball season at Hawkins-Williams Park may last throughout the summer if area men and woman decide to take advantage of plans by the Elba Recreation Department to join men's and co-ed league. Both leagues are scheduled to start in late July and continue through August, and maybe the softball players in the area will get together and have some fun at the park.

*** In closing...the place to be this summer for many youth and adults has been the Elba City Pool. Pool manager Jetey Wise reports the pool has been crowded all summer with kids and parents, and invites everyone to come out on the weekend of the 4th and join in on the fun. He says the water is cool, clear and refreshing.

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Elba 13-year-olds claim runner-up spot

The Elba Dixie Boys 13-Year-Old All-Stars made the trip to Dothan four nights last week to compete in the Dixie Boys Sub-District Baseball Tournament and claimed two wins in four games to place second in the four-team tournament.

The All-Stars posted wins over Dothan Southern 12-6 and Ozark 11-7, while losing twice to tournament champion Enterprise 14-0 and 10-0.

"We probably didn't play as well as we could have in any game," stated Coach Stevie Walden, "but we played well enough to defeat both Dothan and Ozark and I honestly think we could have beaten Enterprise if we had played our best. All the players worked hard in practice and gave it all they had, and despite the long ride every night never complained and should be proud of placing second in such a tough sub-district."

Following are highlights of all four games:

*** **Elba 12 Dothan Southern 6** - The Elba All-Stars used a three-run third inning to pull ahead and then used a six-run outburst in the fifth inning to pull away in a 12-6 opening round win over Dothan Southern.

Elba grabbed a 1-0 lead in the top of the first when John Wayne Lambert drew a two-out walk, stole second and scored on an rbi single by Shane Adkins, then added three runs in the top of the third to extend its lead to 4-0. The All-Stars took advantage of three walks and an error to plate the three runs, while a key hit in the inning was a one-out single by Nathan Foster.

Dothan Southern used a two-run homer to cut the Elba lead to 4-2 in its half of the third, but the All-Stars from Coffee County added a lone run in the fourth on an rbi single by Nathan Foster to move on top 5-2, and then plated six runs in the top of the fifth to blow the game open and take a big 11-2 advantage!

A lead-off single by Jeremy Snead ignited the fifth inning fireworks, while two walks loaded the bases with no outs. Snead scored on a fielder's choice off the bat of Bobby Hudson, while Colt Anderson and Don Rhoades drew walks to force in two more runs. Back-to-back singles by Nathan Foster and John Wayne Lambert drove in three more runs, and by the time Dothan managed to get the third out Elba was in complete command with an 11-2 lead.

Dothan scored one run in the sixth and added three runs in the

Elba Volleyball Camp 2003 set for July 29-30 at Elba High gym

The Elba Volleyball Camp - 2003, will be held on July 29-30 at the Elba High School gym, with Elba Tiger head coach Amelia Rhoades as clinician.

The cost is \$50 per person and checks should be made payable to Amelia Rhoades. Basic skills and techniques will be taught at the two-day camp, which is for players in grades 7-12.

The schedule will include Session I from 9:00 until 12:00, a lunch break from 12:00 until 1:00 and Session II from 1:00 until 4:00, on both days.

For more information contact



DIXIE BOYS 13-YEAR-OLD ALL-STARS...placed second last week at the Dixie Boys Sub-District Baseball Tournament, in Dothan. The All-Stars claimed wins over Dothan Southern and Ozark in the tournament, but fell twice to Enterprise.

bottom of the seventh, but it was too little, too late, as Elba never looked back and added a run of its own in the seventh to close out the win 12-6.

Nathan Foster had 4 hits and scored 4 runs to lead Elba at the plate, while John Wayne Lambert added 1 hit and scored 2 runs and Jeremy Snead added 1 hit and scored 1 run. Shane Adkins also had one hit for the All-Stars, while Don Rhoades drew three walks and scored 2 runs. Nathan Foster pitched all seven innings to get the win on the mound and allowed six runs on 13 hits, while striking out 4.

*** **Enterprise 14 Elba 0** - The Elba All-Stars left the bases loaded in the top of the first and never threatened again as they fell to the Enterprise All-Stars 14-0.

Elba took advantage of two walks and a single by Shane Adkins to load the bases with two outs in the opening inning, but failed to push across a run as the All-Stars missed out on the chance to grab an early lead.

Enterprise managed only one hit over the first two innings and owned a slim 1-0 advantage heading into the bottom of the third, but scored two runs on two hits in the frame to extend its lead to 3-0. The fourth inning proved to be the killer for the Elba All-Stars, as Enterprise took advantage of countless errors to plate 11 runs to take a big 14-0 lead. Elba failed to score in the fifth and absorbed the 14-0 loss to fall into the loser's bracket.

Shane Adkins had the only

hit for Elba in the loss and the All-Stars managed only one base-runner in the final four innings after leaving the bases loaded in the first inning.

*** **Elba 10 Ozark 7** - The Elba All-Stars stayed alive in the double-elimination tournament by posting a wild 11-7 win over Ozark.

Elba failed to get a hit in the opening three innings and managed only two base-runners as Ozark pulled out to an early 3-0 lead. However, Elba came to life at the plate in the top of the fourth and combined five walks with three hits to plate seven runs and grab a 7-3 advantage.

A one-out single by Shane Adkins ignited the fourth inning rally, while an rbi single by Gage Nalley got the All-Stars on the scoreboard and pumped life into the Elba players. Four straight walks and a single by Ryan McCollough helped the All-Stars blow the game open, and after being shut-out for three innings the Elba All-Stars suddenly found themselves in the lead 7-3.

Ozark scored three runs in the bottom of the fifth to cut the Elba lead to 7-6, but the All-Stars answered with three runs in the top of the sixth to regain command at 10-6. A single by Logan Carley and errors on balls hit by Gage Nalley and Ryan McCollough were the key at-bats in the inning, as Elba regained momentum.

Ozark scored a lone run in its half of the sixth to pull within 10-7, only to see Elba add an insurance run on a single by John Wayne Lambert and an rbi

Elba Parks & Recreation RECREATION REPORT

Swimming lessons set for July 7-11

The Elba Department of Parks and Recreation will sponsor beginner swimming lessons on July 7-11, at the City Pool, located at Hawkins-Williams Park, for youngsters ages 12 and under.

The lessons will be taught by Red Cross certified lifeguards and held daily from 10:00 AM until 12:00 (noon). The cost of the lessons is \$15 per person.

For more information, or to register for lessons, call the Elba Recreation Department at 897-6833 or the City Pool 897-0555.

Adult softball leagues set for Elba

The Elba Department of Parks and Recreation has announced plans to form a "Summer Softball League," with games to be played in both Men's and Co-Ed divisions.

Team registration will take place from July 1 - July 15, with games scheduled to begin on Tuesday night and July 24. The Men's division will play all games on Tuesday nights, with the Co-Ed division to play games on Thursday nights.

Team entry fee is \$150 and is due when the team roster is turned in prior to the registration deadline. In the Co-Ed division all teams must have an equal number of males and females on the roster!

For more information call the Elba Recreation Department at 897-6833.

Cheerleader registration to end July 7

Registration for youth cheerleaders for the upcoming football season has been extended until Monday, July 7, at 5:00 PM.

The ages include Midgets (ages 7-8), Termites (ages 9-10) and Pee Wees (ages 11-12) with a girls age being determined by her age on August 1, 2003.

Forms are available at the Elba Recreation Center and the Elba City Pool, and for more information call the Recreation office 897-6833 or cheerleader supervisor Toni Dewberry 894-5321.

ELBA CITY POOL OPEN FOR SUMMER
HOURS: MONDAY - CLOSED
TUESDAY - FRIDAY 12:00 - 6:00
SATURDAY 10:00 - 6:00
SUNDAY 1:00 - 5:00

SPORTS

Following the All-Stars on...

"The Tournament Trail"

Dixie Minors fall late to Geneva 12-2

The Elba Dixie Minor All-Stars began play Friday night at the Dixie Minor Sub-District Baseball Tournament, in Troy, and fell into the loser's bracket with a 12-2 opening round loss to Geneva.

Elba grabbed an early 1-0 lead in the bottom of the second on an rbi single by Janzen Flowers and later regained the lead at 2-1 in the bottom of the fourth when Tyler Anderson was hit by a pitch, stole second and then scored on an error off the bat of Ashton Davis.

Geneva scored twice in the top of the fifth to sneak back in front 1-2 and then broke through for nine runs in the sixth to take command and claim the 12-2 win.

Dixie Ponytails outthit Brantley 22-20

The Elba Dixie Ponytails All-Stars began tournament action on Friday night at the Dixie Ponytails Sub-District Softball Tournament, in Enterprise, and advanced in the winner's bracket with a wild 22-20 win over Brantley.

The Elba All-Stars scored 11 runs in the top of the first to take a big 11-0 lead, only to see Brantley rally and cut the Elba lead to 14-13 in the fourth inning and then pull within 20-19 in the fifth. Lindsey Amlong and Chessie Cross scored in the Elba half of the sixth to put the All-Stars back in front by three runs, and Heather Hines struck out three batters in the bottom of the inning after a lead-off triple to preserve the win.

Chessie Cross led a 17-hit Elba attack with five hits, including an inside the park home-run and two triples, and also scored 4 runs and collected 5 rbi's. Hayden Goodson had two first inning triples and scored 2 runs, while Jamie Hall and Hillary Davis added 2 hits, each. Erica Mount added 1 hit and scored 3 runs and Cortin Lee had 1 hit and scored 2 runs.

Brantley managed on 3 hits in the game, but took advantage of 17 walks and 4 hit batters to score in almost every inning.

Dixie Belles open with two big wins

The Elba Dixie Belles All-Stars hit the road to Andalusia last weekend to compete in the Dixie Belles Sub-District Softball Tournament and claimed wins over Luverne 15-5 and Greenville 13-3 to move into the finals of the winner's bracket.

Following are highlights of the two wins:

*** **Elba 15 Luverne 5** - The Elba All-Stars pulled out to an early 9-0 lead and turned back a late Luverne rally to post a 15-5 win, in opening round action.

The All-Stars failed to score in the opening inning and scored only once in the second, on an rbi double by Stephanie Baxley, to take a slim 1-0 lead after two trips to the plate. A lead-off walk by Valerie Hutcherson, followed by back-to-back rbi doubles by Melanie Mularz and Haley Stinson, and a two-run double by Stephanie Baxley, ignited a four run outburst in the third inning as the All-Stars extended their lead to 5-0.

A single by Valerie Hutcherson and consecutive two-out hits by Haley Stinson, Hannah Manning and Krystan Parker helped Elba push its lead to 9-0 in the top of the fourth. However, Luverne came to life at the plate in the bottom of the fourth and used two hits and an error to plate two runs and cut the Elba lead to 9-2.

A two-run double by Haley Stinson and an rbi single by Heather Reeves enabled Elba to push its lead to 12-2 in the top of the fifth, but Luverne again refused to quit and added two runs in their half of the inning to pull within 12-4 and stay alive.

A two-run double by Melanie Mularz and an rbi single by Krystan

At South Alabama Speedway

Greg Rabren gets first win of the season

By Mark Chisum

South Alabama Speedway held a special 50-lap Feature for the Vintage class recently. The way Andy Pugh was running, it probably wouldn't have mattered if it had been 200 laps. Pugh took the lead on the first lap and led all the way to take the checkered flag in the extra distance feature. Phillip Anderson came from the tenth starting spot to finish second, but wasn't able to challenge Pugh for the win. Late cautions closed the gap, but Pugh pulled away on each restart to take the Modified Feature win. Kevin Peel finished third, Jamie Ater fourth, and Teddy Sasser fifth.

Stacey Besdole took the lead from Scott Morse on lap 8 and went on to win the Street Stock Feature. The winning move came after the race's only caution period. Besdole got a break when the two lead cars, Jeff Smith and Derek Deese got together on the first restart. Both had to go to the pits for repairs, moving Morse into the lead

Parker helped Elba extend its lead to 15-4 in the sixth, and this time the All-Stars held on as they claimed the 15-5 win, in six innings.

Melanie Mularz had 4 hits, scored 3 runs and knocked in 4 runs to lead Elba at the plate, while Haley Stinson added 3 hits, scored 3 runs and had 4 rbi's and Krystan Parker added 3 hits, scored 2 runs and drove in 3 runs. Stephanie Baxley had two doubles, while Hannah Manning added 2 hits and Valerie Hutcherson, Heather Reeves and Brittany Caldwell all added 1 hit. Stephanie Baxley pitched three innings and allowed no runs on no hits with seven strike-outs to get the win, while Brooke Stinson also pitched three innings and allowed five runs on four hits and one walk.

*** **Elba 13 Greenville 3** - The Elba All-Stars used two big innings to take command and rolled to a 13-3 win over Greenville, in the second round of winner's bracket action.

Elba failed to score in the opening inning after loading the bases with one out, but broke through in the second and scored seven runs to grab an early 7-0 advantage. Heather Reeves reached on a passed ball with one out to ignite the Elba uprising, while a bunt single by Jennifer Hilyer kept the inning alive and a walk to Valerie Hutcherson loaded the bases. Haley Stinson delivered a two-out, two-run double to put the All-Stars on the scoreboard, while Hannah Manning followed with an rbi single and Krystan Parker ripped a two-run double as the All-Stars moved on top 5-0. Stephanie Baxley singled in Parker, and Summer Strickland came through with an rbi double to cap off the big inning as Elba took command with a 7-0 lead!

Greenville took advantage of three walks and one hit to plate three runs in the top of third inning to cut the Elba lead to 7-3, and that was how the scoreboard remained until the fifth, when Elba scored twice to extend its lead to 9-3. A two-out rbi triple by Melanie Mularz knocked in the first run of the inning, while Keri Hobbs followed with an rbi single to help Elba extend its lead.

The All-Stars scored four runs in the sixth to take a 13-3 lead and put an end to the contest due to the ten-run rule. A lead-off single by Krystan Parker and walks to Stephanie Baxley and Summer Strickland enabled Elba to load the bases with no outs, while a bunt single by Heather Reeves led to a wild throw at first and allowed two runs to cross the plate. Melanie Mularz added an rbi single later in the inning, and Keri Hobbs singled in Reeves with two outs as Elba closed out the 13-4 win.

Melanie Mularz had 4 hits, drove in 2 runs and scored 1 run to lead Elba at the plate, while Krystan Parker and Stephanie Baxley both added 2 hits and scored 2 runs and Keri Hobbs, Hannah Manning and Haley Stinson added 2 hits, apiece. Adding one hit were Summer Strickland, Heather Reeves and Jennifer Hilyer. Stephanie Baxley pitched all six innings to get the win and allowed three runs on two hits and five walks, while striking out 12 batters.

Elba Dixie Angels win one, lose one

The Elba Dixie Angels All-Stars traveled to Opp last weekend in the Dixie Ponytails Sub-District Softball Tournament and claimed one win and one loss. The Angels opened the tournament with an impressive 18-7 win over Luverne, but then fell into the loser's bracket on Saturday after falling to Opp 15-8. Details of these games were not available at press time, but will be published next week with a recap of the remainder of the tournament.

Elba Chamber of Commerce
Calendar of Events and Meetings

July 2003

July 4 - Independence Day

July 8 - Elba Rotary Club meeting

July 12 - "Celebrate Elba 150" Birthday Bash and Fireworks

July 14 - Elba City Council meeting

July 15 - Elba Rotary Club meeting; New Season's Study Club meeting

Aug. 21 - Elba Chamber of Commerce Board meeting; Elba's Foggy Bottom Classic

Aug. 23 - "Celebrate Elba 150" presents George Jones in concert at Miller Memorial Stadium

Aug. 25 - Elba City Council meeting

July 29 - Elba Rotary Club meeting

August 2003

Aug. 1 - Back to School for teachers at Elba City Schools

Aug. 5 - First Day of School for Elba City Schools; Elba Rotary

Club meeting

Sept. 6 - "Celebrate Elba 150" Sesquicentennial Ball

Sept. 8 - Elba City Council meeting

Sept. 9 - Tax Election; Elba Rotary Club

Sept. 11 - Patriot Day

Sept. 16 - Elba Rotary Club meeting; New Season's Study Club meeting

Sept. 22 - Elba City Council meeting

Sept. 23 - Autumn begins; Elba Rotary Club meeting

Sept. 25 - "Celebrate Elba 150" Chamber Banquet

Sept. 30 - Elba Rotary Club meeting

Visit the "Celebrate Elba 150" website at: <http://www.elbaweb.com/~elba150>

Now on Sale at the Chamber Office:

• Elba Can T-Shirts - \$8.00 • Chamber Membership Lists - \$8.00

• 2002 Elba Christmas Ornament - \$10.00 • Christmas Cards - \$10.00

• Hand Towels featuring the Historic County Courthouse - \$10.00

• City of Elba featuring Elba landmarks - \$9.00

"Celebrate Elba 150" T-shirts:

• T-shirts - \$15.00 • T-shirt Plus - \$18.00

• Banner - \$35.00 • Placard - \$80.00 • Wall Sign - \$100.00

George Jones Concert Tickets:

• \$10.00 (Reserved Seating on the Field)

• \$25.00 (Reserved Seating in the Stand) • \$100.00 (General Admission)

Elba Chamber of Commerce (334) 897-3125

Keri Whitworth, Executive Director

CLASSIFIEDS

The Elba Clipper

417 W. Buford St. • P.O. Box A
Elba, AL 36623-0257

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BUILDING MATERIALS

SUMMER CLEARANCE SALE! Steel Arch Buildings - Save thousands on select sizes - 25'x35', 35'x35', 52'x60'. Great workshop/garages. Call 1-800-334-8979. 6-12-03

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HIRING FOR 2003/2004 positions.

Federal hire, \$14,803-\$16,000/hr. Full benefits/paid training and vacation. No exp. necessary. 1-877-329-5268, ext. 501. (R)

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GREAT NEW NEIGHBORHOOD! Just Off Highway Drive, Under Construction Brick Homes, Perfect For Retirement 1200 sq. ft. 3 BR - 2 Bath, Garage-Lovely 2nd Floor, 2 Bath - 1617 Sq. Ft. Master Bedroom W/ Garden Tub & Shower. Call For Details. 100% Financing - 6% Interest. For Qualified Buyers, Mike Russell RUSSELL CONSTRUCTION Call 334-897-6548. 12-12-03

YARD SALE

HUGE YARD SALE... THURS. - SAT. 1415 Reese Ave. 7:00 Until... Rain Or Shine! Call 897-5603. 7-3-03

HELP WANTED

ELBA GENERAL HOSPITAL has a full time opening for an LPN to work in Physician Office. Competitive benefits. Apply in person call 897-2257. EXT. 224. EOE. 7-3-03

HELP WANTED

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT Department-Coffee County Emergency Management Agency Headquarters. Application Closing Date: July 11, 2003. Qualifications: Must have valid driver's license, possess computer skills, have a basic understanding of emergency management and office administrative functions and pass a drug test. A four year college degree preferred. Fringe Benefits: Paid vacation, sick leave, health insurance, holiday pay. Salary Range: \$21,000.00 to \$24,000.00 per year. This position is Available upon request. "AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER" 6-26-03

HELP WANTED

DRIVERS - COMPANY, OTR drivers & owner operators. Class A CDL, 1 Year recent experience, good MVR, great benefits & assigned trucks. 1-800-387-0088, ext. 122/180. (R)

HELP WANTED

DRIVERS: DRIVEN to success. CFI is now hiring company & owner operators. "singles and teams" Loads with miles available immediately! Ask about our space training program. Call 1-800-CFI-DRIVE. www.cfidrive.com. (R)

HELP WANTED

DRIVERS! LOOKING for stability? "Respect!" Friday paydays! Family voice mail! Consistent miles! In-cab email! 2-hour processing! Class "A" CDL, 6 mo. OTR, 1-800-745-9670. www.continental.com. (R)

HELP WANTED

DRIVERS NEEDED immediately! Regional & linehaul positions. Sign on bonus for all. Excellent pay. Flatbed, training truck assigned first week, 6 months OTR required. 1-800-441-4271, ext. B38.

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HELP WANTED

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HELP WANTED

DRIVERS: TEAMS - Western Express - success. Solid miles, good home time, competitive pay, benefits package, paid vacation. Class A CDL, 22 yrs. old, good MVR. 1-888-221-5627.

HELP WANTED

DRIVERS/OWNER operators. Great pay, benefits, high weekly miles and \$2500 sign on bonus. 1 yr. exp. call SMX 1-800-247-8040. www.smx.com. (R)

HELP WANTED

FLATBED OWNER/operators wanted hauling into and out of central Alabama. Base plate furnished, pay by percentage, home weekends! 1-800-360-6502. (R)

HELP WANTED

OUR SPECTACULAR NEW 2003 catalogs are out! Contact Ideal Gifts for friendly for a free copy today! Excellent new advisor and manager programs. 1-800-488-4875. www.friendlyhome.com. (R)

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HELP WANTED

OWNER/OPERATORS wanted. James R. Smith Trucking. Various lanes available. Excellent pay, home often. Call 1-256-734-0511. 1-800-633-3252 Monday-Friday. Ask for Recruiting. www.jamesrsmith.com. (R)

HELP WANTED

DATA COMMUNICATION analyst. Get \$2,000 for first year of college you've completed. Paid training to work with state-of-the-art computers. HS graduates/enrich. 1734. Call 1-888-256-6239. M-F 9-4.

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HELP WANTED

FOR SALE: 14X55 MOBILE HOME 1988 Remodeled, 1 Bedroom, located on 1 1/4 Acre of land, includes Deep Well, 20x24 Storage Building & Extra Rental. Unit 189 near Shiloh Baptist at 308 County Road 407, Elba. Call Don @ 334-488-9554. 6-5-03

HELP WANTED

3 BEDROOM, 3 BATH FOR SALE on 2 Acres of Land on Neil Grantham Drive. Reduced to \$22,000. Call 897-3165. 6-19-03

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HELP WANTED

FOR SALE: 14X55 MOBILE HOME 1988 Remodeled, 1 Bedroom, located on 1 1/4 Acre of land, includes Deep Well, 20x24 Storage Building & Extra Rental. Unit 189 near Shiloh Baptist at 308 County Road 407, Elba. Call Don @ 334-488-9554. 6-5-03

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DESTIN, FL. Best beach accommodations. Any budget/location. Free pool/deep sea fishing. No gimmicks - just free. ECVK & Sales. 1-888-238-8431. Visit: www.ecvkc.com. (R)

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HELP WANTED

GULF SHORES/FL. Morgan, Dolphin Island, Lake Martin. 18 houses on gulf/lake. 2, 3 & 4 bedrooms. Fully furnished. Rent from owner. www.shglf.com. 1-800-255-0465. (R)

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PANAMA CITY Beach. Sandpiper-Beacon Beach Resort. From \$75 (1-2p, restrictions). Pools, lake, river, rick, parasailing, hot tub, suites, tiki bar, water slide. 1-800-488-8828. www.sandpiper-beacon.com. (R)

HELP WANTED

The Coffee County Board of Education is seeking applications for the following CERTIFICATED position for the 2003-2004 school year. Applicants must possess a valid Alabama Teacher's Certificate with appropriate endorsement. Area of certification, experience and qualifications may be considered as employment decisions are made.

HELP WANTED

Assistant Principal for Zion Chapel School

Salary will be based on current salary schedule.

For an application, contact the Coffee County Board of Education, 400 Reddick Hill Road, Elba, Alabama 36623 or call (334) 897-5016. Completed applications must be received by 11:00 a.m., July 16, 2003 or until the position is filled.

The Coffee County Board of Education does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, age, or disability in any of its educational or employment programs or activities.

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CLASSIFIEDS

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Video available at Elba Public Library to help with stuttering problem

Stuttering is a frustrating and embarrassing problem for millions of people, but it can be especially tough on teenagers. Now video help is available at the Elba Public Library in Elba in the form of a new videotape.

"It's meant to encourage teens, to tell them that there is hope out there," said Professor Peter Ramig of the University of Colorado at Boulder. Ramig is one of

three nationally recognized experts appearing in the video produced by the non-profit Stuttering Foundation of America.

David Wilkins, a high school student who stutters himself, narrates the video. It features students from junior high school through college talking about their experiences with stuttering and what they found to be helpful. They talk openly about

the ridicule they faced from classmates and how their stuttering affects their lives.

"We really try to emphasize the embarrassment and frustration factor, and we think teens will relate to that," adds Ramig. He appears in the video along with speech-language pathologists Dr. Barry Guitart of the University of Vermont and Dr. Hugo Gregory of Northwestern University.

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Elba Rotarians hear tax package update from governor's legal advisor

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

Elba native Troy King was guest speaker at the Elba Rotary Club on Tuesday of this week. King is presently serving as legal advisor to Alabama Governor Bob Riley.

Program Chairman of the week Paul Morrow had asked that local

Rotarians be updated on the governor's tax package and upcoming constitutional amendment election in Alabama.

King briefed the Rotarians on many of the major problems the state government is dealing with, a number of cost cutting/confidence building measures taken by Governor

Riley in the past eight months, and cited a number of critical financial shortfalls in the state of Alabama financial picture.

According to King, the governor has installed cost cutting measures sufficient to save the taxpayers of Alabama \$230 million a year. However that is not enough to overcome an annual

cash need of over \$600 million needed to keep the state on "level funding".

Citing shortages in funding for education, prisons, state troopers, Medicaid, and several other major areas, King stressed that the tax and accountability package are critical to the survival and future growth of the state's thriving economy.

He reminded his audience of Governor's Riley's executive order that would cause any employee of the executive branch to be automatically fired if they assisted in "pass through work" projects. These are incidents where a legislator gets a cash appropriation into legislation for a particular government agency with a verbal understanding that when the money arrives, it is to be used and/or transferred to one of the lawmaker's pet projects.

There were twenty bills in the package of legislation recently passed by Alabama lawmakers in a recent special legislative session, King said. Ten of these are tax bills and ten are accountability bills. He added that Governor Riley has said repeatedly that he wouldn't recommend the tax increases unless he could promise taxpayers more accountability. King noted this additional accountability is directly tied in with the proposed tax increases and one will not become law unless the entire package is approved by the voters in September of this year.



TROY KING, Legal Advisor to Alabama Governor Bob Riley, addressed the Elba Rotary Club at noon Tuesday, July 8th. He spoke on the state's financial needs and the positive merits of the pending tax/accountability bill in Alabama.

An Elba native, King expressed comfort as he addressed a group of people he had personally know most of his life.

Elba's birthday bash set for Saturday evening

If a picnic with the family sounds like a good idea, the historic courthouse square in Elba will be the place to be Saturday evening, July 12, as the "Celebrate Elba 150" committee hosts a birthday bash beginning at 6 p.m.

With the event only a couple of days away, committee members have revamped the night's schedule in hopes of providing memorable entertainment for all who attend.

Cooking will certainly be out that evening as the Elba Band Boosters and Friends of the Library will be selling plenty to eat, and these treats will be exactly what a cookout calls for with burgers, watermelon slices, boiled peanuts and much more.

Also for the entire family, Elba's own Dr. Sam Faulk will be in town to spin music throughout the evening. He currently serves as a disc jockey for a radio station in Montgomery.

There will be special activities for the youngsters as "Jana the Clown" will be in town to entertain with the Moon Walk, a train and other kiddie rides. This talented clown will also be able to satisfy that sweet tooth with her snow cones and cotton candy.

And, word has it that funnel cakes will also be on the square. Finally, no birthday bash would be complete without an explosive ending; therefore, the "Celebrate Elba 150" committee hopes everyone will stick around to enjoy a huge fireworks display beginning at 9:30 p.m. This is

promised to be the biggest fireworks show Elba has ever produced, and committee members said no one will want to miss this great exhibition.

So, bring those lawn chairs or blankets because it's going to be a huge party, and everyone is invited to come on out for all the

fun and festivities. Professional photographs will also be offered throughout the evening.

There is no admission charge to attend this event; however, food and some entertainment will include charges.

Elba teenager seriously injured during weekend car accident

Fund established to assist family

An Elba teenager sustained serious injuries Sunday morning, July 6, from a car accident occurring within Coffee County.

Jeremiah Prettyman, son of Gregg and Janice Prettyman of Elba, was traveling on Alabama Highway 87 just south of the Alabama Highway 134 intersection when he fell victim to the one-vehicle accident.

According to reports from the Alabama State Troopers office, the accident occurred at approximately 7:20 a.m. Sunday morning, and Prettyman was driving a 1996 Ford Mustang at the time of the incident.

He sustained extensive injuries from the accident and currently is receiving treatment at a Dothan hospital where his condition remains very serious.

In an attempt to assist this local family, the Elba community

has responded by establishing a fund at The Peoples Bank for friends and neighbors to make monetary donations.

Anyone wanting to show support for the Prettyman family during their time of need can do so by simply requesting to make a deposit into The Jeremiah Prettyman Fund.

Jeremiah is a student at Elba High School and will be a senior during the 2003-04 school year.

Jeremiah Prettyman

During Elba Lions Club meeting Members hear TSU football program expansion update

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Members of the Elba Lions Club got a little more in touch with the goings on at Troy State University Tuesday, June 24, during the club's regular meeting.

Roger Schultz, director of corporate sales for Troy State University, attended the meeting and served as the guest speaker for the evening.

During his remarks, Schultz updated members on the changes taking place with the university's football program, and said he feels these improvements will have a positive economic impact for the area.

He said great leadership and the vision of Dr. Jack Hawkins, chancellor, have allowed the university to proceed with these changes, and people across the nation are starting to recognize Troy State University.

"We feel like we're your college team," Schultz said.

Among the many changes taking place, he said the football stadium has been expanded from a 17,000 seat facility to a 30,000 seat facility. Also, the university has recently completed a deal where it sold the stadium name rights.

With this deal, Schultz said Troy State becomes only one of four universities with a corporate name attached to its football stadium. Movie Gallery Stadium.

Another major deal Schultz touched on included a new broadcast contract. He said only two schools within the nation have a direct contract with a network. Other schools have

contracts through their conferences. Notre Dame has a contract with NBC and Troy State now has a contract with ESPN, and Schultz said the network will broadcast two games within the next three years from Troy State University.

"One game will definitely be the Missouri game in 2004," he said.

Schultz also showed the club members an example of the new field turf being utilized by Troy State.

He said the players have played on this particular type of turf at Nebraska and loved it.

One major advantage discovered by schools already using this type turf has been a reduction in serious knee injuries.

Schultz also said Troy State is excited about the new turf because football, band and other practices can be held on it.

Before concluding, Schultz briefly discussed the new sky box at the stadium in which he said it will be a great place for people to mingle and meet.

Also, he said Troy State will introduce its new Stadium Club which will put fans on the 50-yard line. He said this will be an option no other school offers and a really great advantage to this is that it allows fans access into a lounge bar for food, drinks, etc.

All in all, Schultz said there are a lot of great things going on at Troy State University and it's exciting to be a part of something that is growing.

Roger Schultz, left, recently updated Elba Lions Club members on improvements taking place with the university's football program. Also pictured is Elba Lion Club member Brian McLeod.

Take safety precautions with hot water heaters

by Linda Hodge, Editor

It is important to practice any and all safety precautions to avoid a fire at home or in the office; however, sometimes owners of gas hot water heaters forget about the dangers of this particular appliance.

According to Elba Fire Chief Larry Goodson, hot water heaters are usually kept in a storage area where other varying items are also stored out of the way.

He said it is particularly important to be sure and keep flammable items away from hot water heaters because the appliance generates a certain amount of heat, and with a burning pilot light, gas hot water heaters are even more dangerous than electric ones.

Goodson said a good practice for avoiding a hot water heater fire would be to have the appliance serviced occasionally. If it is serviced regularly, he said the burners and pilot lights will be kept clean which reduces the chances of a problem.

Danny Bryan, an employee with Propane Gas and Appliance Company, Inc. agreed it is a good idea to keep an eye on hot water heaters and be sure foreign objects are not placed too closely, especially flammable ones.

Bryan said he is not

aware of a suggested amount of time for servicing a hot water heater, but if one has not been serviced in a long while, he said it would not be a bad idea to have it serviced.

Although a service call will cost the owner a certain fee, he said the service person can make sure the heater is venting properly which might prevent a fire in the future.

Fortunately, Goodson said the Elba area has not had a significant amount of hot water heater fires, but he said it is a good idea to have a plan prepared just in case.

Of course he said the first thing to do is to call the fire department. He also said with gas burning appliances it is good to know where the gas cut-off valve is located. Therefore, if a fire occurs, someone can, if it is in a convenient location away from the flames, turn off the valve and keep the fire from getting worse.

Regardless, however, he said it is imperative to call the fire department.

"Minutes are critical," Goodson said. "We would rather come and not be needed than have someone wait 10 minutes to make a decision and it be too late with someone's life in danger."

Both Goodson and Bryan said the best steps to take in preventing a hot water heater fire are to keep a check on it periodically, keep the burners and pilot lights clean, make sure flammable materials are stored away from the heater and make sure the all covers are closed to keep pilot lights from being exposed.

Avoid placing flammable objects in front of gas hot water heaters.

Area Happenings

THE COFFEY COUNTY COMMISSION will hold its regular bi-monthly meeting Monday, July 14, at 9 a.m. in the community room of the county complex at New Brackton.

THE NEW BRACKTON TOWN COUNCIL will hold its monthly meeting Monday, July 14, 7 p.m., at the New Brackton Town Hall. The New Brackton Water Board will meet prior to the council at 5:30 p.m.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COFFEY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION will be held Friday, July 18, at 9:30 a.m. in the community room of the extension office complex at New Brackton.

ELBA HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR ORATION will be held Thursday, July 24, at 8 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Parents and friends are encouraged to attend. Students will pick up tickets at the school and establish meal accounts. They will also have a brief tour of the school.

NOTICE

Any person who is responsible for the day school during the May 20th at the Elba, Washington County is asked to call the Elba Police Department at 897-3130. Please have a name and telephone number and a valid driver's license. Any person responsible for the school.